

I came to Congress to save this country from bankruptcy, and I will not stand idly by as such dangerous legislation is pushed on a partisan basis through the Congress.

Mr. Speaker, oppose this tax and spending spree.

IT IS TIME TO RAISE THE DEBT CEILING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, we have often turned to Lincoln. My good friends on the other side of the aisle have tried to be Lincolnesque, but I don't think they have dug deep into the virtues of Abraham Lincoln. They didn't delve deeply into his sense of courage and integrity.

We know that his ultimate goal was to preserve the Union, as it should have been. He was, in fact, the President of the United States of America, not of the Union States, not of the Confederate States. But often as they pretend Lincolnesque, it is abandoned along the trash heap of highways of despair.

First of all, the Build Back Better Act is paid for over 10 years, in contrast to the debacle voted on, to a one, by my friends on the other side of the aisle, of the Trump tax cut, 83 percent for those who were already flourishing in dollars, while it left the bus drivers and teachers and paramedics, nurses and emergency room doctors, along the highway with tin cups.

Any plan for embellishing, staffing—and that is what it is—for the Internal Revenue Service, of which we should continue to have oversight, is to ensure that those who have paid not a dime—not a dime—not a dime, Mr. Speaker—pay their fair share.

Do you think any American is against that? I have seen Republicans, Democrats, and Independents who are crucially asking the question: Am I carrying the entire burden?

My friends stand stalwart, the Republicans; they are not going to raise the debt ceiling. First of all, it is the full faith and credit of the United States. Read the Constitution. It is to ensure that America's bills, money already spent, are paid.

Just like you use your electricity, you are paying ahead of time; you are paying for the bill already spent. The electricity, the light was on for 20 days. You are paying for that light to be on.

I am sad to say that there are so many who can't make ends meet, can't pay the light bill. I have heard it often. Can't pay rent; can't pay the water bill.

So I am going to start with two icons from different eras about the word "courage."

Abraham Lincoln eloquently spoke in 1862—he was a most visionary writer—"The dogmas of the quiet past are inadequate to the stormy present." All

that we talked about, all the contentiousness of yesteryear, you need to put it aside. "The occasion is piled high . . ."—this day, this month, this 2021, this in the midst of a national health emergency, is piled high ". . . with difficulty, and we must rise with the occasion. As our case is new, so must we think anew and act anew. We must disenthrall ourselves, and then we shall save our country."

Is anyone here willing to save their country? Are they willing to join as Americans to save the country?

I know 2022 is coming. Great campaign ads about what Democrats did. I am glad that my terminology will be what an American did by the name of SHEILA JACKSON LEE. What did she do?

"Courage is the most important of all the virtues because without courage you can't practice any other virtue consistently," said the iconic and late Maya Angelou, who I had the privilege of teaching me. What a great memory I have of her being my professor.

So I want to speak this morning on the cruciality of moving forward on the INVEST Act and the Build Back Better Act. Without a doubt, I want to be able to not give short shrift to the 2 years of free pre-K and 2 years of free community college, paid for, giving Americans the front-end and giving the opportunity to be able, for some, to be in college for the first time. They are moving on to historically Black colleges of their choice or other colleges of their choice.

What about the Federal Medicaid program, when 12 States failed to opt in during the Affordable Care Act and left a trash heap of desperate people. Not the people desperate, but on the heap of despair, no healthcare, because they were below the threshold. Our friends as well decided not to do anything.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, how important it is to have the INVEST Act, with making sure we have broadband and making sure that we have high-speed internet as well as highways that work not against us but for us.

Let's do the right thing and have the courage of Americans. Let's stand for America.

□ 1030

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALAN JOHNSON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an individual from my district for his work to keep both Iowans and Americans healthy.

Alan Johnson, a professor in the Department of Psychological and Brain Sciences at the University of Iowa, has been selected for the 2021 Excellence Award for Hypertension Research by the American Heart Association's Council on Hypertension.

This award by the American Heart Association is given to members of the scientific community who have had a major impact in research that has contributed to better understanding the causes and effects of hypertension.

Hypertension, or high blood pressure, is a common cardiovascular condition that affects millions of Americans a year and is a major contributor of both strokes and heart attacks.

I am proud of Professor Johnson for his decades of research into the effects, causes, and treatments of this condition, and I congratulate him for earning this prestigious award.

THANK YOU TO STEAD FAMILY CHILDREN'S
HOSPITAL STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, September is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month, and I would like to take a moment to thank my district for their work in treating and researching childhood cancer.

A staple to my district and to the Iowa City community is the University of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital, located right across the street from Kinnick Stadium. You all might know it well from the "wave," one of college football's greatest traditions.

The Stead Family Children's Hospital specializes in treating pediatric patients, winning several awards for their specialties in not only pediatric cancer but also orthopedics and cardiology, among others.

Our gratitude for helping these children extends beyond the staff of Stead Family Children's Hospital. Many University of Iowa students and members of the Iowa City community use their free time to volunteer just to brighten a child's day.

Thank you to the men and women in Iowa who are working to treat and research childhood cancer and to those who use their time to comfort children who are currently battling it, a disease no child or parent should face alone.

HILLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WINS AWARD

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about the importance of childhood education and how a school in my district is taking extra strides to ensure their students' success.

At Hills Elementary School in Hills, Iowa, one out of four students are in the process of learning English as their second language. This is far higher than the average rate in Iowa being 12 percent.

Though many might see this language disparity as a barrier to student achievement, this year, Hills Elementary was selected as one of 325 schools to win a National Blue Ribbon School Award from the U.S. Department of Education, with 81 percent of students at the school showing improvement in their academics.

Beginning in 1982, the National Blue Ribbon School Award has been used to recognize American schools for their academic excellence.

I couldn't be prouder of both the students and faculty at Hills Elementary,

and I wish the best for them as they continue their journey of academic achievement.

I would also like to take a moment to wish a happy belated birthday to my legislative assistant, Kendyl Willox, and a happy belated birthday to my good friend and colleague, enthusiastically, the gentleman from Long Island, Representative ANDREW GARBARINO.

IMPROVING OUR INFRASTRUCTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) for 5 minutes.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, a historic investment that will create millions of good-paying jobs and support America's future global competitiveness.

This bill will do so much to repair our ailing infrastructure and will create two million labor-friendly jobs each year for a decade.

Florida has 408 bridges and more than 3,564 miles of highway that are in poor condition.

Through this bill, Florida will receive \$13 billion for federal-aid highway programs and \$245 million for bridge repair.

Florida will also receive \$2.6 billion for public transit systems and \$1.2 billion for airport development.

To further help us cut down on transportation emissions, the bill will provide Florida with nearly \$200 million to support the expansion of an electric vehicle charging network.

I have also heard, Mr. Speaker, from so many municipalities throughout south Florida who are struggling with obsolete water infrastructure. Thankfully, this bill provides Florida with \$1.6 billion to get rid of lead pipes and improve water infrastructure.

For Florida's highways and byways, which are some of the most dangerous in the Nation, this legislation will usher in a "Safe Streets for All" program to help reduce crashes and fatalities.

Also important for Florida, this bill provides the Army Corps of Engineers with \$1.9 billion for aquatic ecosystem restoration projects.

The Florida delegation expects the Corps to use a large portion of this money on Everglades restoration to bolster the funding we already secured through the regular appropriation process and get the project back on track.

This bill is a big investment in surface transportation and hard infrastructure, but it is only a segment of President Biden's Build Back Better agenda.

I am looking forward to passing the revolutionary climate and resiliency programs in the Build Back Better Act.

For my own constituents and the children and grandchildren of everyone

in this Nation, I urge a "yes" vote on this important bill and the Build Back Better Act. That will allow us to truly rebuild our working class and set us on a path to prosperity.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BACON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. BACON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize two Hispanic trailblazers in Omaha—Robert, known as Bob, Campos and Dr. James, known as Jim, Ramirez—for their generous contributions to our community.

After growing up together in the same working-class South Omaha neighborhood, Bob and Jim each went on to lead extraordinary, successful lives, and they have made a huge difference in our community.

Bob Campos was born in 1938 to Mexican immigrant parents in South Omaha, a neighborhood long regarded as a melting pot of multicultural immigrant families. Growing up, his large family shared only a one-bedroom home. So when Bob was only 8 years old, he went to work at the neighborhood grocery store to earn some extra income for his family.

At 16 years old, Campos dropped out of high school and attempted to enlist in the United States Marines but was unsuccessful after falsifying his age in his application. Shortly after that, he fulfilled his desire to serve his country by joining the U.S. Coast Guard.

After his military service, Bob moved back to Omaha and worked at the Kiewit Construction Company. After 15 years at Kiewit, he started his own business, Campos Construction, on January 1, 1977. Starting his business with only \$500 and a pickup truck, Campos grew his company to become the largest minority-owned construction company in Nebraska.

Bob's reputation for excellence led him to take on high-profile projects, to include painting the home of President Abraham Lincoln in Illinois and building the Gerald R. Ford Conservation Center in Omaha.

In 2003, Bob leased the land to build community soccer fields in South Omaha, personally mowing and tending to the property now known as the Bob Campos Soccer Complex.

Bob also fosters educational leadership opportunities for Hispanic high school students through the Grassroots Leadership Development Program.

Dr. Jim Ramirez was born in 1934 to Mexican immigrant parents who worked in the meatpacking plants of South Omaha.

During high school, Dr. Ramirez faced repeated discrimination and was told by guidance counselors and peers that Latinos such as himself did not belong in college. So after graduation, Jim joined his father at the Nebraska Beef packing plant, where arduous work motivated him to pursue higher education and a better life.

For 18 years, Ramirez worked the slaughterhouse in the day and took classes at night; graduating in 1971 with a bachelor's degree in sociology from the University of Nebraska Omaha. He went on to earn his master's degree in guidance and counseling from UNO in 1974 and, ultimately, a Ph.D. in adult continuing education in 1984.

Having witnessed discrimination throughout his years as a student, Dr. Ramirez made it his life's mission to promote pathways to higher education for Omaha's Hispanic community.

In 1972 Dr. Ramirez was selected to chair UNO's Committee on Mexican-American Affairs, upon whose recommendation the University hired more Hispanic faculty, administrators, and staff.

After earning his doctorate, Dr. Ramirez was hired by UNO as a professor and counselor, where he spent decades mentoring countless Hispanic and minority students.

Dr. Ramirez went on to work as a human relations specialist at Omaha Public Schools, where he recruited Hispanic teachers from across the country to teach and mentor Omaha's Latino students.

Additionally, today I would like to recognize the Latino Center of the Midlands for celebrating 50 years of serving Omaha's Hispanic community.

The Latino Center is an education and social service nonprofit located in South Omaha, the heart of Omaha's Latino community.

Founded officially in 1971 as the Chicano Awareness Center, their work is rooted in advocacy for and service to Omaha's Latino community. Their three major programs, Family and Community Well-Being, Pathways to Success, and Workforce Education and Innovation impact over 2,500 individuals and families a year. Currently it is led by Albert Varas.

During Hispanic Heritage Month, no other two individuals and organization are deserving for our recognition than Bob Campos, Dr. Jim Ramirez, and the Latino Center. Together they demonstrate for all Americans, especially Latino Americans, that through hard work, perseverance, and faith, anything is possible.

I am pleased to announce that Bob Campos, Dr. Jim Ramirez, and the Latino Center of the Midlands have been selected as the inaugural inductees to the Nebraska Hispanic Hall of Fame, established this year by the Nebraska Hispanic Chamber of Commerce in collaboration with my office, where their stories and many others will be shared for centuries to come.

Thank you, Bob and Jim, and the Latino Center, for making a difference in our great community.

AMERICA CAN'T AFFORD TO WAIT ANY LONGER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from